

Literary Model: Dialogue

When Cloyd was little, he used to talk to his sister about how badly he wanted to find his father, but she didn't seem to need to know him at all, so he had kept his dream inside. ... Now here he was with his heart pounding, following the nurse down the long hallway to his father's room. ...

"How did this happen?"

"Car accident," she said. "I don't know any details."

"How long has he been like this?"

"Four years."

"Are you sure he's Leeno Atcitty?"

"Yes, of course."

"Where's he from?"

"I think I heard that once ... Utah, I think. Monument Valley. I wonder if this could be the man you were looking for."

—from *Bearstone* by Will Hobbs

EXERCISE A Underline each sentence fragment that appears in the above passage.

EXERCISE B

1. Rewrite the dialogue to eliminate all sentence fragments. That is, whenever you come to a sentence fragment, supply words that make it a complete sentence.

[illegible]

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NAME _____

CLASS _____

DATE _____

for CHAPTER 1: THE PARTS OF A SENTENCE **pages 4–19**

Literary Model (continued)

2. Read the original passage and your revision. Why do you think the author chose to write the dialogue as a mix of sentences and sentence fragments rather than using only complete sentences?

EXERCISE C Write a dialogue in which one person asks questions to try to help a friend who is upset. Have the upset friend speak mostly in sentence fragments to convey his or her feelings or emotions.

EXERCISE D

1. How does the character who uses sentence fragments sound different from the other character in your dialogue?

2. How would your dialogue sound different if both characters used only complete sentences?
